

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request consideration of this Amendment which is being submitted in order to put the application into condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 9, 16 and 31 are pending in the application, with claim 9 being the independent claim. Claims 9, 16 and 31 have been previously allowed by the Examiner. (Advisory Action, April 14, 2006; Office Action, September 20, 2005.) Claims 25-30 and 32-38 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants believe that all outstanding objections and rejections have been rendered moot and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections and allow the application to proceed to issuance.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 9, 16 and 31.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Advisory Action issued on April 14, 2006, the Examiner has maintained his rejection of claims 25-30 and 32-35. (Advisory Action, Page 1.) Claims 25-30 and 32-35 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly

failing to comply with the written description requirement. (Office Action, September 20, 2005, Page 2, ¶6) Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 25-30 and 32-35. The rejection of these claims has therefore been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 25-30 and 32-35.

Other Matters

In the Advisory Action issued on April 14, 2006, the Examiner has alleged that new claims 36-38, submitted in Applicants' Reply filed on March 20, 2006, raise new issues that would require further search and consideration. (Advisory Action, Page 1.) Applicants respectfully disagree and note that new claims 36-38 were submitted in order to simply present the subject matter of claim 25 in separate independent claims. Specifically, new claims 36-38 correspond to the composition of claim 25, where each individual element ((a), (b) and (c)) within the Markush group of part (ii) of claim 25 is recited separately in claims 36, 37 and 38, respectively. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 36-38. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Mita Mukherjee
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,325

Date: October 20, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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